Darren Martinez Grade 10 Harrisburg High School First Place

There are so many ways and situations, throughout the world and in our daily lives, that "We the People" could personally spread and further the great and peaceful message of Dr. Martin Luther King. In my community, school and at home the act of speaking out against fighting is one place to begin the message of non-violence. I can continue to spread the message of peace. For example, initiate a peace treaty among my peers who are troubled. My actions would also include helping the needy. My fight would be to help people who fight for those who need food, shelter, and all the universal basic needs of mankind.

I would speak out against those that pre-judge, the prejudice. Ignorance is the word for this group. I would tell them to put away their cowardly ignorance to an end through education. Our home away from home is school, the house of knowledge. Unfortunately, we bring the problems of the world to school and spread community problems and conflicts within the halls of learning. We have the same old problems of graffiti on the walls and damaging school property. I want to promote giving a helping hand and create a positive change in my school. Another problem is the "he said-she said...drama or gossip, another huge problem, especially among female peers. I can pass on Martin Luther King's message and be a peacemaker or problem solver to issues around "he said-she said" words that causes a disruption in my home away from home. I remember, his message to treat all people...all shapes, sizes, and color with respect. In other words, treat people the way you would like to be treated and that is...nothing but

respect! Accepting people as our equal will evolve into an opportunity to begin a move in a positive direction and open doors for opportunities and dreams.

My role as a problem solver is a very important role. I am charged with the role as the negotiator of conflicts and emulates the character of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolence is the key that unlocks the door for conflicts and harassments. Nonviolence is the key that opens the door to peace. Finally, I plan to follow his message and pass the message each day and for the rest of my life.